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Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Written statement* submitted by the Association for Defending Victims of Terrorism, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[23 August 2018]

* Issued as received, in the language(s) of submission only.

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Slavery in the Contemporary Era

Although slavery dates back to a very long time when human beings exploited other human beings for power or wealth and the abhorrent practice was prevalent in human society as a reasonable act, it was abolished in the course of time. Unfortunately, contemporary slavery has exploited a large number of people and is practiced in an even worse way. In the traditional form of slavery, there was hope that slaves would find a better situation or become liberated when they were bought and sold, but in the new form which is practiced by the terrorist groups, there is no hope for liberation, and such victims are doomed to live as slaves forever and fully obey the commands in this structure.

The remarks of those defected from these terrorist cults, who have succeeded in liberating themselves from this form of slavery with great difficulty, testify to the fact that the slaves of such cults do not have the right to comment, choose their work, food, clothes, personal lifestyle or emotional interests and whatever the ringleaders of the organization decide, they must accept like slaves unconditionally; and if they resist, they will face imprisonment, torture or even death.

Welcoming the report of the Special Rapporteur on the Contemporary Forms of Slavery, we draw the attention of the United Nations Human Rights Council and the international community to the looming danger of a return to the classical and traditional forms of slavery in terms of recruiting and kidnapping by terrorist groups such as ISIS, Boko Haram and MKO. And we call for serious efforts in helping these people be released from the terrorist groups and cults.

The Association for Defending Victims of Terrorism (ADVT) calls on the UN to appoint a representative to report on this disastrous and inhumane behavior and take necessary measures in liberating thousands of people enslaved by those who promote terrorism and violence. It is also recommended that public opinion be enlightened on this score.